

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 346

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), PFOR, FR, NATO  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) BY VICE-PRESIDENT

1. FRENCH CHARGE DE LA FERRIERE CALLED ME ON JANUARY 21 CONCERNING THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE NAC. HE SAID THAT FRANCE WARMLY WELCOMES THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH THE COUNCIL AND WISHES IT TO BE A SUCCESS AND TO ENHANCE THE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS THAT GOVERN BOTH ALLIANCE AND FRENCH-US BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. DE LA FERRIERE WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO NOTE THE MORE RESTRICTIVE VIEW OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON CONSULTATION IN THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID THAT IF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE TO EXPRESS VIEWS DURING THE MEETING THAT DID NOT ACCORD WITH THOSE OF FRANCE, THAT AMBASSADOR TINE WOULD NOT STATE ANY DISSENT. NEVERTHELESS, HIS ABSTENTION SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ASSENT TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION. DE LA FERRIERE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO CONSULT IN THE COUNCIL WHEN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES ARISE AND THAT THEY ADHERE TO THE OTTAWA DECLARATION. HOWEVER, FRANCE  
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CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC CONSULTATIONS REQUIRE COUNCIL CONSENSUS.

3. I TOLD DE LA FERRIERE THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE FRENCH POSITION. WITH REGARD TO NEXT MONDAY'S MEETING, I SAID I PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT WOULD TOUCH UPON SPECIFICS OF CONSULTATION, ALTHOUGH I COULD WELL IMAGINE, BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE CAMPAIGN, THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT MIGHT REAFFIRM IN GENERAL THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONSULTA-

TION IN THE ALLIANCE. I ALSO POINTED OUT TO DE LA FERRIERE THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH THE COUNCIL WILL BE MAINLY TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF OUR ALLIES. DE LA FERRIERE INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR TINE WAS LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO DISCUSSION DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

4. DE LA FERRIERE ASKED ME IF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GIDCARD, MIGHT RAISE THE SUBJECT OF ALLIANCE CONSULTATION. I RESPONDED THAT I DID NOT KNOW, BUT I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THE INFORMATIVE NATURE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY AS I UNDERSTOOD IT.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT DE LA FERRIERE'S REITERATION TO ME OF THE MORE RESTRICTIVE FRENCH INTERPRETATION OF ALLIANCE CONSULTATION WAS A "SHOT ACROSS THE BOW" IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE ALLIED PRESSURES FOR ENHANCED POLITICAL CONSULTATION IN NATO. END COMMENT.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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